



## **HILLIARD CO-REC SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

Roger A. Reynolds Municipal Park

3800 Veterans Memorial Drive, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 614.876.5200

**Ballfield Rainout Line- 614.470.5413**

The Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department has established the following rules for the Co-Rec Softball Leagues. All games are played according to A.S.A. (American Softball Association) rules. The Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department reserves the right to waive any rules governing play.

The Ballfield Rainout line will be updated by 4 p.m. on game day. It is the *players* responsibility to call the Ballfield Rainout Line to find out if the games have been canceled. The umpire or league coordinator determines playing conditions once the games have begun. (i.e. rain, thunder, lightning, etc.)

The Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department is not responsible for any accidents or articles lost or stolen.

### **Team Captain Responsibilities**

The team captain is responsible for seeing that all rules are followed. Any captain, player or spectator abusing the rules or park facilities may be subject to disciplinary action to be determined by the league coordinator and Director of the Recreation and Parks Department. Team Captains should represent the concerns of their teams.

No children are permitted to be bat boy/girl. No one under the age of 18 is permitted on the field at any time.

### **League Winners**

League winners are determined by overall record. In case of a tie the winner is determined by:

1. Record in head to head competition
2. Total points scored
3. Total points allowed
4. If teams are still tied after #3 co-champions are declared and a coin flip determines seed for tournament.

Forfeits are recorded 12-0. Run rule games are recorded with a run differential of +/- 12.

- The summer and fall league winners receive up to 16 championship t-shirts.
- Tournament Champions receive up to 16 championship t-shirts.

Tournaments are not held in the fall softball league.

### **Protests**

Protests of judgment calls are not allowed. Protests of playing rules must be made before the next pitch and a decision is be made by the umpire.

### **Rosters**

A player must be at least 18 years of age.

Additions to the roster may be made by the 7<sup>th</sup> game of season. The maximum number of roster players allowed is 25.

A player can be on the roster of only one team, per league, per session. Teams may have up to 3 substitute players playing in a game at any time. A substitute player is a player that is not on the roster by 7<sup>th</sup> game of season. A substitute player may be anyone on or not on the roster of any team in the Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department Co-Rec Softball League during the current season.

### **Post Season Tournament Rules**

Only 2 subs may be used.

Violation of roster rules may result in games being forfeited.

### **To start a Game**

Each team must have no less than 8 players present to start and continue the game. Teams with less than 8 players shall forfeit the game. If both teams have less than 8 players, a double forfeit declared and both teams receive a loss. If a team plays with 8 players 2 outs must be taken when the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> spot comes to bat. If a team plays with 8 players it cannot have more than 4 men. The game may be played with 9 players, 1 out is taken for the 10<sup>th</sup> spot. Teams playing with 9 players cannot have more than 5 men. If at any time an injury or ejection occurs to a team is reduced to 7 players that game is over resulting in a loss for that team.

### **Batting Orders**

The teams are responsible for keeping a core book that includes the batting order. The score will be agreed upon with the umpire after each half inning.

If a team uses 10 players in the field, they must bat with at least those 10 players that played the field i.e. no designated batters only extra batters are allowed.

If a team starts with 8 players, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> player may be added to the end of the batting order. Once a team has 10 players, they may *not* go back to 8 or 9 players unless there is an injury or ejection.

The line-up may contain from 8 to 20 players. The line-up is the batting order. All players in the line-up bats in that order. Only 8 or 9 (at least 4 women) or 10 (at least 5 women) players may play defense. If a team is batting more than 10 players, free substitution is allowed on *defense only*. Any players may change positions at any time. The batting order must remain the same. Teams submit line-ups to the opposite teams captain prior to the beginning of every game.

### **Schedules**

Starting times are Sundays at 6, 7 or 8 p.m.

Fields 1, 2, 3 and 4 (or any combination of these fields) is used for games. The home team is designated on the scorecard.

All make-up games are on Sunday's as scheduled by the league coordinator. Captains will be notified at least one week prior about make-up times. No game will start after 10 p.m.

### **Grace Period**

A 10 minute grace period is given from the scheduled start time of the first game only. i.e. if at 6 a team does not have 8 players, the umpire will wait 10 minutes for the 8<sup>th</sup> player to arrive. If at 6:10 p.m. the 8<sup>th</sup> player has not arrived, a forfeit will be called. There is no grace period for 7 and 8 p.m. games.

Games have a 1 hour time limit. If the game starts late because the previous game was not completed on time, one hour starts from the time the new game begins. Any game starting after the proposed game time will receive a notification at 45 minutes as well as at 55 minutes. Once 55 minutes has elapsed a new inning can start but will end at 105 minutes.

If a game is called due to the weather/conditions of the fields, the last completed inning will determine the winner, if the game has completed 4 innings. If the game has not completed 4 innings, the game is rescheduled and started from the beginning. The losing team must complete four (4) "at bats".

Umpires immediately clear the field when it is determined that thunder and/or lightening is threatening the safety of the players. Games are continued 15 minutes after the fields are safe from lightening if the fields are still playable.

### **Run Rule**

If a team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 4 innings, 12 runs or more at the end of 5 innings or 10 or more after 6 innings the game is called.

### **Substitution Rules**

Substitutions may be made for players in the batting order. Re-entry is allowed one time in the same batting order position for both the starter and his/her substitute. Free substitution is allowed on defense only when there are more than 10 players in the batting order.

Courtesy runners are allowed due to injury during the game only. This rule carries over if team has a double header. The last out of the same sex serves as the courtesy runner.

### **Home Runs**

There are 3 over the fence home runs allowed per game for each team. Any home runs over the limit will be considered an out. If a home run is hit over the fence base running is not required.

### **Extra Innings**

If after the completion of 7 innings or the 1 hour time limit the game is tied, the following rule is enforced to find the winning team. There are no tie games.

A one pitch "Texas Shoot Out" format is used. Each batter comes to the plate with a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes. No free foul ball is given to the batter. If a male batter walks they will receive 2<sup>nd</sup> base, the next female batter has the option to take first base or bat. During the tournament "Texas Shoot Out" format are not be used.

### **Balls & Strikes**

The arch limit on pitches is 6ft. to 12ft. After the second strike, no foul balls are allowed.

When a player steps into the batter's box, he/she has a count of one ball and one strike.

If the male batter is walked without receiving a strike, he goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the female batter has the choice to bat or be awarded first base. If the male batter has been pitched one strike, he is awarded first base and the female must bat. If there are 2 outs and a pitcher walks a guy and the opposing team has no female in the next spot it is counted as the third out of the inning.

### **Collision Rule**

The base runner is responsible for any collision which results in the unnecessary contact of a fielder during a live ball. If there is a play being made that could result in contact, the runner must avoid collision. The penalty for unnecessary contact by the runner is an ejection from the game.

The fielder is held responsible for illegal blocking of the base when they do not have the ball. The penalty for illegal blocking of the base is a warning, then ejection from the game for the second time.

### **Equipment**

Steel Cleats are not permitted.

Only bats with a rating of 1.20 or less are allowed.

### **Alcoholic Beverages**

Any player, coach, or fan seen by an umpire or league coordinator with an alcoholic beverage or that is believed to be intoxicated will be ejected from the game. Violators of this rule must immediately leave the park and risk forfeiture of the game.

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Any captain, player, or fan connected with a team, that physically or verbally attacks an umpire, other official, or any other person at any time, may subject themselves to indefinite suspension from all activities conducted by the Hilliard Recreation and Parks Department. Any player ejected from a game must leave the park and not return to games until suspension ends.

A player may be ejected from the game if determined by umpire to be exhibiting aggressive play, i.e. aggressive tags.

A captain, player, or fan may be ejected at any time before, during, or after a game.

First Offense- The player will be suspended for the next scheduled game played.

Second Offense- The length of the suspension will be determined by the League Coordinator and Director of Recreation & Parks.

Profanity is not tolerated and is considered unsportsmanlike and may result in an ejection from the game.

A game may be stopped at any time by the umpire if it is determined that further play will not change the outcome. If, in the opinion of an umpire, a team is deliberately allowing the opposing team to score in order to bat one more time and the starting time for the next game has arrived, the game will be ended.

### **Miscellaneous**

Bike, scooters or Roller Blades are not to be found within the compound of the Ball Fields.

Baby sitters are not provided by Hilliard Recreation & Parks department during games. All children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult or sitter.

**Two different size softballs are used. The larger one is pitched to the males and the smaller one is pitched to the females.**